

**STATE OF MONTANA
INFORMATION SHEET**

HOUSE BILL NO. 848

**A BILL CREATING THE MONTANA MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND
AND AN ACCOUNT IN THE STATE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND FOR USE BY
THE FUND**

INTENT

Then intent of HB 848 is to create "The Montana Military Family Relief Fund" (MMFRF) and an account, in the state special revenue fund, to fund the program. The MMFRF provides grants to members of the Montana National Guard and federal Reserves, and their families, when the military member is activated for federal service in support of a contingency operation.

The MMFRF provides three types of grants:

1. \$250 status-based grants to each family member, upon federal activation of the military member for a contingency operation of more than 30 days;
2. Up to \$2,000 in needs-based grants to a qualifying military members, or a family member, upon federal activation of the military member for a contingency operation for more than 30 days; and
3. A \$2,000 casualty-based grant to a military member who sustains a non-lethal injury in the course of or related to combat as a direct result of hostile action while serving on federal duty in support of a contingency operation.

HB 848 provides for a transfer of \$1million from the general fund to establish the MMFRF account in the state special revenue fund. Money in the special revenue fund is statutorily appropriated to the MT Department of Military Affairs in order to make MMFRF grants. HB 848 also provides that the MMFRF may be funded via monetary contributions, gifts, and grants, and through a voluntary state income tax checkoff election.

CONCLUSION

HB 848 recognizes and provides support for the personal and financial sacrifices that our Montana National Guardsmen and Reservists (to include their families) are asked to make in the service of our Nation.

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